

a filter releasably carried within the lumen of the delivery sheath, the filter slidably disposed along the guidewire and removable from the guidewire by sliding the filter proximal on the guidewire; and

a proximal stop attachable to the guidewire at or near the proximal end of the filter, said proximal stop being slidably disposed along the guidewire.

22. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 21, wherein said proximal stop comprises a barb that allows the filter to pass distally, and is operable to allow the filter to pass proximally.

23. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 21, wherein said proximal stop comprises a pivoting one-way cleat that allows the filter to pass distally, and is operable to allow the filter to pass proximally.

24. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 23, wherein the proximal stop is operated by passing a sheath over the proximal stop.

25. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 21, further comprising an advancing mechanism.

26. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 25, wherein said advancing mechanism is an elongated member.

27. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 26, wherein said elongated member includes a longitudinally extending groove in a body portion disposed thereon.

28. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 27, wherein said body portion has a C-shaped cross section.

29. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 26, wherein the elongated member further comprises at least one spiral-shaped region, the spiral shaped region adapted to coil about the guidewire.

30. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 26, wherein the elongated member is a push wire.

31. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 25, further comprising a releasable interlock adapted to releasably attach the filter to the advancing mechanism.

32. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 31, wherein said releasable interlock is a magnetic interlock.

33. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 31, wherein said releasable interlock comprises a threaded portion on the advancing mechanism adapted to threadably engage a threaded portion on the filter.

34. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 31, wherein said releasable interlock comprises first and second hooks and a sheath adapted to surround the hooks, wherein, in use, the hooks remain engaged within the sheath, and wherein the first hook is rotated out of engagement to release the filter when the sheath is withdrawn.

35. (Newly Presented). The medical device of claim 31, wherein said releasable interlock comprises a plurality of claws mounted at the distal end of the advancing mechanism and a recess on the filter adapted to engage the claws.

36. (Newly Presented) The medical device of claim 35, further comprising a locking sheath adapted to maintain engagement of the claws within the recess when disposed thereon.

37. (Newly Presented) A medical device, comprising:

a guidewire having a proximal end and a distal end;

a delivery sheath having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen therebetween, the delivery sheath slidably disposed along the guidewire;

a filter releasably carried within the lumen of the delivery sheath, the filter slidably disposed along the guidewire and removable from the guidewire by sliding the filter proximally on the guidewire; and

a first stop and a second stop, the first stop disposed proximally of the filter and the second stop disposed distally of the filter, wherein the first stop is attachable to the

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guidewire at or near the proximal end of the filter, and wherein the first stop is slideable along the guidewire;

wherein, in use, the guidewire is positioned within a vessel of a patient, the filter and delivery sheath are advanced along the guidewire to a region of interest within the vessel, and the delivery sheath is removed from the filter to release the filter.

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